

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5408
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PORG, OAU, LI

SUBJECT: RETURN OF TOLBERT FROM LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT

REFS: (A) LIBREVILLE 1678 (B) LIBREVILLE 1714

SUMMARY. IN REMARKS ON HIS RETURN FROM THE OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE, PRESIDENT TOLBERT REPORT ED ON OAU ACTIONS SUPPORTING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE PALESTINEAN RIGHT TO A HOMELAND. IN CALLING FOR AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, TOLBERT URGED PEACEFUL MEDIATION OF DISPUTES. HE REITERATED LIBERIAN SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE ON ZIMBABWE AND THE FIVE-POWER APPROACHES TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA. HE ALSO REMINDED AFRICAN NATIONS OF THE NEED TO APPLY TO THEMSELVES THE SAME HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS THEY EXPECT OF OTHER NATIONS.

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON HIS RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE ON JULY 6 REPORTED TO ASSEMBLED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT. IN A BRIEF ADDRESS, TOLBERT NOTED THAT THE OAU HAD UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL LIBERATION GROUPS IN ZIMBABWE TO UNITE FORCES IN ORDER TO INTENSIFY THE ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME. TOLBERT, HOWEVER, STRESSED THAT IT WAS "COMMONLY UNDER-
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STOOD" BY OAU LEADERS, IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE, THAT THE ULTIMATE CHOICE OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP MUST BE LEFT TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND NOT IMPOSED FROM THE OUTSIDE.

2. TOLBERT REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN ZIMBABWE AND FOR THE FIVE-POWER APPROACHES TO SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA BUT HE STRESSED THAT THESE INITIATIVES SHOULD

BE DONE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, THE OAU, AND THE RECOGNIZED LEADERS OF THE KONCERNED LIBERATION GROUPS.

3. TOLBERT TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EMPHASIZED THAT AFRICAN LATIONS MUST APPLY TO THEMSELVES THE SAME STANDARDS THEY EXPECT FROM OTHER NATIONS. HE SAID THAT LIBERIA WOULD NEVER COUNTENANCE THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.

4. TOLBERT ALSO VOICED HIS SUPPORT FOR OAU RESOLUTION REFECT-ING THE USE OF MERCENARIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. HE REPORTED THAT THE OAU REMAINED UNWILLING TO ACCEPT CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES AND NOTED THE NEED FOR A PALESTINEAN HOMELAND AND PALESTINEAN PARTICIPATION IN MISSLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. FINALLY, TOLBERT RETURNED TO HIS COMMON THEMES ON THE NEED FOR AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, MEDIATION OF DISPUTES ANDCO-EXISTENCE OF ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD. HE CALLED FOR FURTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS AND SUPPORT FOR ECOWAS.

5. FURTHER LIBERIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE WILL BE REPORTED FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH TOLBERT AND FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS. TEXT OF TOLBERT'S REMARKS WILL BE POUCHED.
CARTER

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